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CHILD FIND

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS

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Child Find

Child Find is the Department of Defense Dependents Schools' (DoDDS) effort to locate children who have handicapping conditions and need individual and appropriate special education. DoDDS is searching actively for these youngsters so that they may receive the special education they need. You can help.

Q1 How do I get help from the DoDD schools when I already know (or suspect) that my child has some kind of handicapping condition?

A Contact your local school by mail or phone. Tell them about your child. You will be called by the person in your local school who can help you.

Q2 How does DoDDS define handicapping conditions for special education programs?

A Qualified teachers, consultants, and other specialists use special tests at the time your child is referred for an evaluation. Many types of disabilities result in handicaps which require special education. A goal of DoDDS is to provide each handicapped child the kind of education he or she needs. Programs are provided for children who are:

- mentally retarded
- hard of hearing
- deaf
- speech impaired
- visually handicapped
- seriously emotionally disturbed
- orthopedically impaired
- other health impaired
- deaf-blind
- multihandicapped or
- specific learning disabled

READEX FICHE

Q3 What do you mean by the term "special education"?

A It means specially designed instruction and programs and sometimes special equipment or classrooms, which will meet the unique and varied needs of handicapped children. These needs may include classroom instruction, physical education and instruction in homes, hospitals and institutions, all provided through the DoDDS system.

Q4 Can my child get other kinds of needed services through "special education"?

A Where the child's individual educational program requires them, such services as transportation, help with speech and hearing problems, consulting and diagnostic services such as psychological, occupational, recreational, and other services may be provided. Each one is designed to help the individual child and his or her parents establish and reach the child's individual educational goals.

Q5 What education must DoDDS provide for my handicapped son or daughter?

A The Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1342.12 requires that all handicapped youngsters be provided with a free, appropriate education in the least restrictive environment suitable to the child's needs. Handicapped children aged 5 through 21 (or through high school graduation) are provided educational opportunities by the DoDDS system. In selected areas, DoDDS provides preschool programs for handicapped children aged 3 through 5.

Q6 Will the schools assess and educate my handicapped child individually?

A Yes. The law states that each handicapped child must have an individual evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services and an individualized educational program (IEP) to determine eligibility for special education services which must be reviewed or revised at least once a year.

Q7 May I participate in my handicapped child's evaluation?

A Yes. The law provides for the participation of parents and guardians in every step of the educational process for handicapped students. You may participate in the evaluation, development, and carrying out of your child's educational program; in determining goals; and, in assessing results.

Q8 Who participates in preparing the individual educational program?

A You, your child's teachers, selected specialists, administrators' consultants, and others (such as a psychologist or medical personnel) needed to assist your child all may help to write the IEP. Sometimes your youngster also may help.

Q9 What does a typical IEP contain?

A Every IEP must contain the following elements:

- A statement of the present levels of educational performance of the child.
- A statement of annual goals, including short-term instructional objectives.
- A statement of specific special educational and recreational activities and related services to be provided to the child, and the extent to which the child may be able to participate in regular educational programs.
- The projected date for the initiation and the anticipated length of such activities and services.
- Appropriate objective criteria and evaluation procedures and schedules for determining, on an annual basis, whether educational objectives are being achieved.
- A statement indicating the frequency (number of times per month) and intensity (amount of time each day) of related services.

Q10 Where and how will my child's special educational services be provided?

A One objective in educating children and young people with handicaps is to treat them as nearly like non-handicapped children as possible. This is often called "mainstreaming." The special help a child may need is often available right in the regular classroom. Individual needs may, of course, require special classes. The decision is made with the help of parents or guardians at the time the IEP is prepared.

Q11 What are my rights as a parent or guardian in the decisions that are made about my child?

A Your rights under "due process" are set forth in DoDI 1342.12. For example, you must be informed fully and give your written consent to decisions made regarding your child's special education. Your rights include confidentiality, access to your child's records, participation in the IEP planning conference, and the right to appeal decisions made. At your own expense, you have the right to call in outside experts and to have your own lawyer act in your behalf. Further, you have the right to have all proceedings conducted in your own language. YOU have control of your child's future.

Q12 Can I be sure that my child will be tested and assessed fairly?

A Every effort will be made to ensure that your child will receive full and equal consideration. The right language for you and your child will be used. Special circumstances affecting you and your child are considered. Assessments are conducted in all areas of suspected disabilities. Qualified professionals will employ observation, interview, and direct testing procedures appropriate to each child.

Q13 Tell me: Who pays for the special educational services that my child will receive?

A DoDI 1342.12 mandates that a "free, appropriate education" be provided to every eligible child with a handicapping condition.

Q14 May anyone refer a handicapped child to DoDDS for help?

A Yes. Anyone who knows of a child or young person who seems to need special educational help may refer that individual to the local school or the regional DoDDS office.

Q15 What if I am employed by DoD and am assigned to an overseas area where there is no DoD school and I think my child has special educational needs?

A If you are overseas, you may contact the regional office which serves the area in which you live. If you are in the continental United States, contact the DoDDS headquarters office for information.

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Department of Defense
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REFERRAL FORM

Name of Child _____ Age _____

Name of parent or guardian _____

Address _____

City _____

Name of person making referral _____

Telephone number of person making referral _____

Mail this form to your local DoD school.

PRIVACY ACY NOTICE: AUTHORITY: PL 95-561 and PL 94-142. PRINCPAL PURPOSES: To locate and identify dependents who may be eleigible for special education. PRINCIPAL USES AND USERS: The form will be used by DODDS personnel to contact parents or guardians of children being referred to DoDDS for special education. MANDITORY/VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE/EFFECT OF NON-DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. Failure to complete this form may result in eligible child not being identified for special education.

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